

MARTIN B. BUSHMAN Jr.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History.

Martin Benjamin Bushman, the son of Martin and Elizabeth Bushman, was born Feb. 5, 1841, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The first noted event of his life was the journey of over one thousand miles by team from Pennsylvania to Illinois, taken by his parents when he was fifteen months old.

Offtimes the ground was his bed while his mother cooked their scanty meals. His next journey was through Iowa in the winter of 1843, when two of his sisters died for want of food and shelter. They stayed at Council Bluffs for three years to get an outfit to come to Utah. Here at the age of eight, he took care of the team and chopped wood for the family, so his father and elder brother could go off to work to get something for them to eat and wear. Then came their journey to Utah in 1851 which took four months of arduous toil.

Following this was their struggle in Lehi to make a home; fence land; make water ditches; plow the land; build houses; stand guard against the Indians; and many other labors and hardships they had to endure.

At the age of twenty he returned to Florence, driving an ox team. The journey took five months, covered two thousand miles, and was to bring the poor Saints, who had no teams, to Utah.

He has now lived in Lehi sixty-two years and helped in all its growth and development from a barren waste to a thriving city; he has taken part in making roads, building bridges, making canals, building school houses, and houses for worship.

He has held offices in state and church, and has traveled in the United States and Canada. He has taken great interest in the threshing of grain; his first experience in Utah was pounding it out with a flail, cleaning it in the wind. Then he was interested

in the threshing machines. He has owned in part and helped to run everything from the most primitive machine of early days to the latest improved steam thresher.

His main occupation has been farming and he has taken pride in tilling the soil. The present season, at the age of seventy-two, he has done most all the work on ten acres of land and raised two hundred and forty bushels of wheat, four hundred bushels of potatoes, eighty tons of sugar beets, and some hay.

He is the father of twenty children and has schooled and provided for them and their mothers. He has been exposed much, in camping out, with cold and has likewise been short of food and clothing in early days, yet for all this he is healthy in his old age, and can read and write without glasses. He helped compile this little book, the History of Lehi.